Institutes, Non-Government Organisation etc. for sustenance of the technology generation, adoption and continuous refinement of technology and improvement of socio-economic conditions of farmers, particularly the small and marginal farmers.

(c) The Committee has planned to visit, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Eastern U.P. and Eastern M.P. The Committee will offer its suggestions after the completion of the visits.

[English]

Setting up of Third Check Post at Border

5788. SHRI JAY SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal to the Union Government for setting up the third Home Guards checkpost at the border adjoining Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereon;

(d) the number of proposals lying pending for consideration with the Central Government; and

(e) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MODH. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, a request has been received from the State Government of Gujarat to consider the proposal for raising 3rd battalion of Border Wing Home Guards. The State Government is seeking to supplement the police presence by raising another battalion of Border Wing Home Guards to curb anti-smuggling operations and other subversive activities. The proposal is under examination of the Government.

Prices of Chilli

5789. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board is planning to open an office at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh to undertake programmes to educate the farmers and traders on the benefits of better post-harvest operations to arrest chilli prices;

(b) whether there has been considerable fall in the chilli prices;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government decided to undertake corrective policy initiatives in this direction;

(e) whether the Spices Board has also decided to make direct intervention in the market;

(f) whether the Government have also decided to take procurement operations through the Spice Trading Corporation, NAFED and MARKFED; and

(g) if so, the extent to which the decision would help the chilli farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Spices Board has opened an office at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh and posted an officer to look after various programmes of the Board relating to development and post harvest operations of chillies.

(b) Yes, Sir. There was fall in prices of chilies, i.e. in Guntur market from Rs. 3075/- per quintal in April, 1996 to Rs. 1713/- per quintal in March, 1997.

(c) The reasons for the decline in prices are:

(1) Increase in area under chillies cultivation resulting in increased production.

(2) Favourable north-east monsoon during 1996.

(3) Better prices prevailing in previous years which motivated the farmers to increase production both extensively and intensively.

(d) The Spices Board is taking various steps to promote export of chillies. The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of chillies in Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) It has been decided to procure 10,000 metric tonnes of chillies, under Market Intervention Scheme, by NAFED and Andhra Pradesh MARKFED at the Market Intervention Price of Rs. 2250/- per quintal of Fair Average Quality of Chillies in andhra Pradesh. The Market Intervention Scheme is in operation from 5th March, 1997 and shall be continued upto 31st May, 1997. So far 2,167 tonnes of red chillies have been procured by NAFED and the State designated agency of Andhra Pradesh. This will save farmers from distress sale.

Outlets of Agros

5790. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an organisation called 'Agros' has accounted satisfactory impact in procuring agricultural inputs like fertilizers and pesticides at normal price to the farmers in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of states benefited by this organisation;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up outlets of 'Agros' in those States who are yet to derive the benefits of this organisaton; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) 1146 Farmers' Agro Service Centres were set up between 1983 to 1991 in the States/Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Establishment of Farmers Agro Service Centres". The scheme, which was transferred to the States in April, 1992, envisaged/setting up of Farmers Agro Service Centres with the aim, among others, of distribution of seeds, fertilizers and other inputs to the farmers. No assessment of the impact of the scheme has been made by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Since the scheme has been transferred to the State for implementation, outlets, if any, would be set up by the States/Union Territories themselves. For those States, where Agro Service Centres are not existing, States/UTs may have to open such centres under their own Plan Schemes.

Pending Funds

5791. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government owes a sum of Rs. 568 crores on different counts to the Delhi Government;

(b) whether the sum is pending as outstanding dues for some years now;

(c) whether the Delhi Government has been pressing hard for its clearance in view of its resource crunch; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi as been demanding a share in Central Taxes, clearance of some liabilities of Delhi Transport Corporation; etc. The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

20-Point Programme

5792. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar had sought additional financial assistance from the Union Government for implementation of 20-Point Programme during 1996 and 1997; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Government of Bihar has not sought additional financial assistance from Planning Commission for implementation of 20-point programme during 1996 and 1997.

[English]

Voluntary Organisations

5793. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voluntary organisations in West Bengal which have received grant to financial assistance for Welfare activities during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount received by each organisation during each of the last three years;

(c) whether these organisations submitted their accounts and reports regularly to the Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Further releases are made only on receipt of audited accounts, utilisation certificates and inspection Reports from the State Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the NGO	Amount Released During 1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
	Scheduled Castes Development			
1.	Chandranath Basu Seva Sangh, 1, BT. Road, Mukti Cinema Bungalow, Calcutta.	6.79	6.79	6.62